



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604**

**DATE:** SEP 7 2017

**SUBJECT:** CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT  
S.H. Bell Company, Chicago, Illinois

**FROM:** Molly Smith, Environmental Scientist  
AECAB (MI/WI)

**THRU:** Sarah Marshall, Section Chief  
AECAB (MI/WI)

**TO:** File

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**Facility Name:** S.H. Bell Company

**Facility Location:** 10218 South Avenue O, Chicago, Illinois 60617

**Date of Inspection:** August 16, 2017

**EPA Inspector(s):**

1. Molly Smith, Environmental Scientist
2. Patrick Miller, Environmental Engineer

**Other Attendees**

1. George Bollweg, Environmental Scientist, EPA
2. Emmanuel Adesanya, Environmental Engineer, City of Chicago
3. Steve Kroon, Environmental, Compliance, and Safety Manager, S.H. Bell Company
4. Jim Langbehn, Manager, S.H. Bell Company

**Purpose of Inspection:** The goal of the inspection was to view the injunctive relief measures recently installed at the facility to control fugitive dust.

**Facility Type:** Bulk Solid Storage Handling Facility

**Regulations Central to Inspection:** Illinois State Implementation Plan and the Clean Air Act

**Arrival Time:** 9:09 AM CST

**Departure Time:** 10:40 AM CST

**Inspection Type:**

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection  
☐ Announced Inspection

**OPENING CONFERENCE**

- ☒ Credentials Presented  
☒ CBI warning to facility provided

The following information was obtained verbally from Mr. James Langbehn unless otherwise noted.

**Company Ownership:** S.H. Bell Company owns the company and operates the site.

**Process Description:**

S.H. Bell Company (SHB) receives bulk solid materials, mainly via barge, and stores the materials onsite for customers.

During this tour, EPA learned the following about recent changes at the site:

1. SHB has purchased two more portable/mobile misting units, for a total of four on site now.
2. The Norcon building baghouse is up and running, as of August 16, 2018. There will be a shakedown period; however, the unit is fully operational.
3. The Ryerson building baghouse is not operating. The loadout shed has been modified, but the required duct work is not completed. SHB believes the unit will be operational by the middle of September. Currently the Ryerson building is using the portable baghouse that was attached to the North Dock loadout shed.
4. During the inspection, August 16, 2018, there was no electricity to the Ryerson building, so no operations were being controlled with the portable baghouse. Facility operations were utilizing the Norcon building as necessary.
5. SHB is in the process of purchasing another portable baghouse. The baghouse will be used mainly at the rail loadout area. SHB has built a rail loadout enclosure, where the portable baghouse will be attached. SHB is using the enclosure without the baghouse currently.
6. SHB is still unloading barges at the North Dock, where the super sacks are primarily unloaded. Super sacks are received at SHB in barges, occasionally with bulk material.

The super sacks are removed in groups from the barge with a crane. The crane holds the super sack material elevated above the dock adjacent to the barge. A torch operator torches open the bottom of each sack, allowing the material to build a pile on the dock. A bulldozer is used to shape the pile. A mobile mister is used to create a water “curtain” downwind of the operations. From the pile, a truck scoops the material from the dock and loads the material into a flatbed truck in the North Dock truck enclosure that is controlled with a portable baghouse. The truck is not covered while it drives to the on-site storage building for unloading. The process continues until the entire barge is emptied. Once all the super sacks have been unloaded, a sweeper truck will clean any remaining materials off the dock unloading area. This operation happens approximately once every two months.

7. SHB receives and processes 8-9 barges a month, with some summer months receiving more barges and January and February receiving less.
8. SHB only wets pig iron with the water truck and the rest of the materials are controlled with the mobile misters.

### **TOUR INFORMATION**

**EPA toured the facility:** Yes

#### **Data Collected and Observations:**

During the tour SHB was unloading a barge of silicone manganese. Two mobile misters were operation. One was creating a “curtain” downwind of the operations and the second was directly angled onto the scooping and truck loading operations next to the barge. This material is considered one that cannot get wet, though SHB does not consider the mobile misters as “wetting” the material, since the misters only generate a small gallon per minute flow.

During the tour we saw a tarped storage pile outside. We were told the material contained manganese and the facility considered it a temporary pile. SHB considers a pile to be temporary if it is stored outside less than one month. According to SHB, temporary piles are acceptable as long as they are tarped.

**Photos and/or Videos:** were taken during the inspection.

### **CLOSING CONFERENCE**

**Concerns:** EPA did not make any determinations during the inspection; however, the City of Chicago noted that it will be doing an increased number of inspections at the facility.

**SIGNATURES**

Report Author: Molly Smith Date: 9/1/17

Section Chief: Sarah M. Madala Date: 9/7/17

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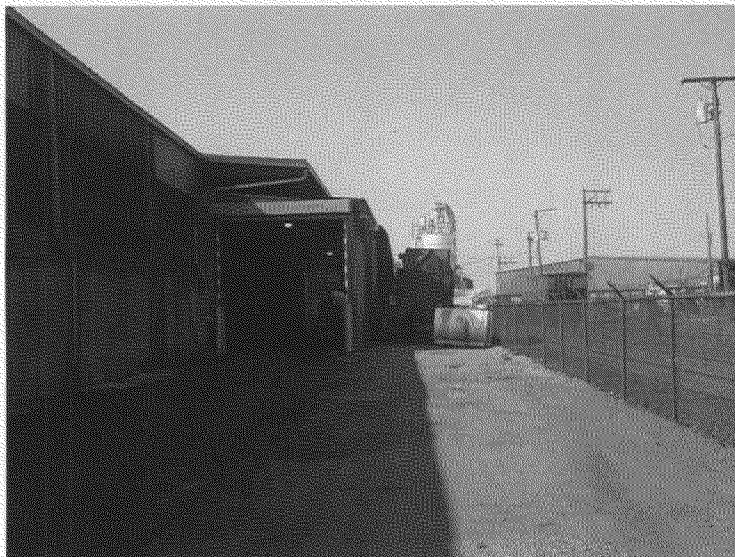
**Date of Inspection:** August 16, 2017

**APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG**

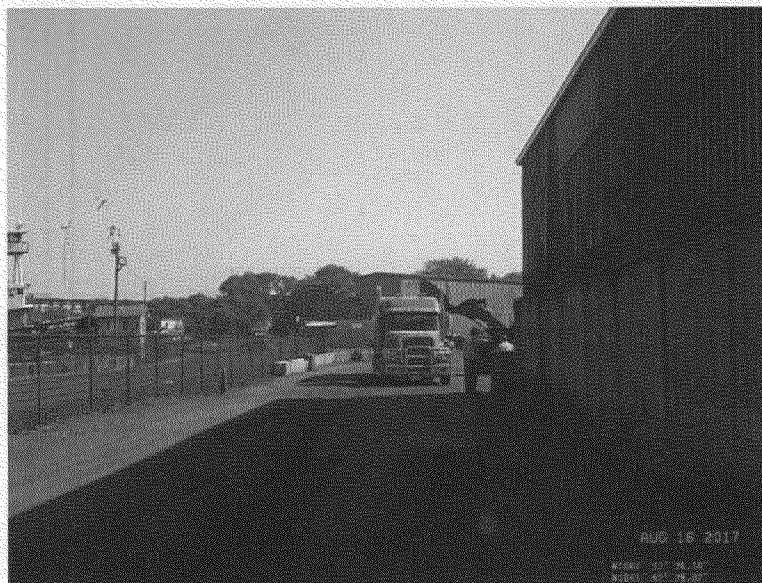
<b>1. Inspector Name: Molly Smith</b>		<b>2. Archival Record Location: C:Drive</b>		
<b>Image Number</b>	<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date and Time (incl. Time zone and DST)</b>	<b>Latitude and Longitude</b>	<b>Description of Image</b>
RIMG0001	RIMG0001	August 16, 2017 at 9:54 AM	NA	Portable baghouse on Ryerson Building
RIMG0002	RIMG0002	August 16, 2017 at 10:01 AM	NA	Loading of pig iron onto truck for shipment
RIMG0003	RIMG0003	August 16, 2017 at 10:02 AM	NA	Street sweeper on-site
RIMG0004	RIMG0004	August 16, 2017 at 10:06 AM	NA	Rail unloading enclosure
RIMG0005	RIMG0005	August 16, 2017 at 10:11 AM	NA	Norcon Building with baghouse
RIMG0006	RIMG0006	August 16, 2017 at 10:13 AM	NA	Barge unloading with mobile mister (silicone manganese)
RIMG0007	RIMG0007	August 16, 2017 at 10:19 AM	NA	Norcon Building with baghouse

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**RIMG0001**



**RIMG0002**



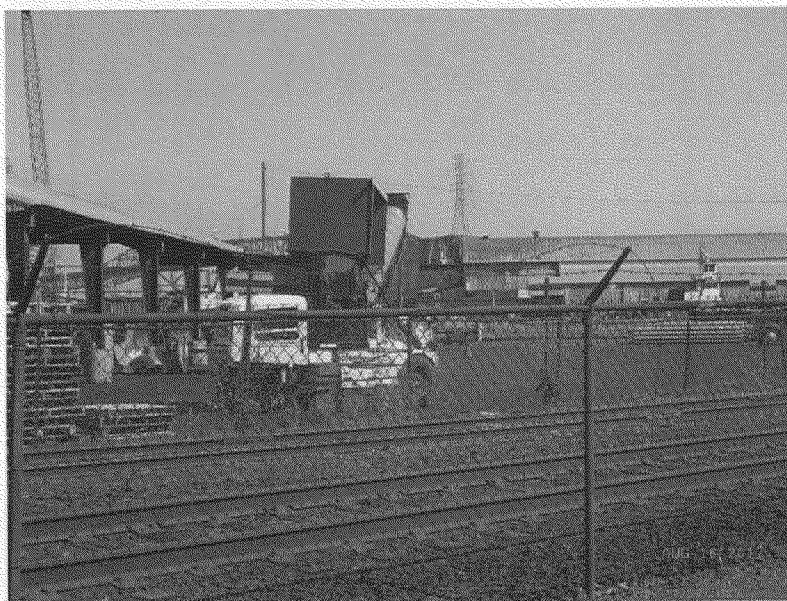
**RIMG0003**



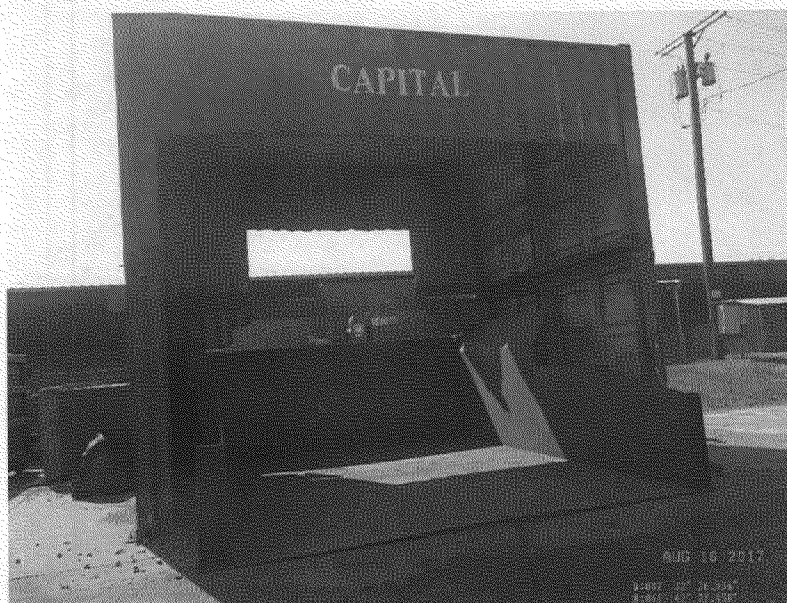
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**RIMG0004**



**RIMG0005**

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**RIMG0006**



**RIMG0007**



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